

Basic Structures: Sets, Functions, Sequences, and Summation

Chapter 2

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Sequences and Summations

Section 2.4

Section Summary

Sequences

- Arithmetic Sequence
- Geometric Sequence
- Recurrence Relations
 - Example: Fibonacci Sequence

Summations

Sequences

Definition: A *sequence* is a function $f: A \rightarrow B$, where A is a subset of \mathbb{Z} .

- $1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{5}, \dots$

$$a_n = \frac{1}{n}$$

- $1, 3, 9, 27, 81, 243, \dots$

$$a_n = 3^n$$

a_n is called term of the sequence.

n is the index.

$\{a_n\}$ is the entire sequence.

Arithmetic Sequence

Definition: An arithmetic sequence has a constant difference between each term.

$$a, a+d, a+2d, \dots, a+nd$$

Examples: Consider the following sequences. What is the term of the sequence (a_n) ?

1. $\{1, 3, 5, 7, 9, \dots\}$

- $a=1, d=2$

$$a_n = 1 + 2n$$

2. $\{7, 4, 1, -2, -5, \dots\}$

- $a=7, d=-3$

$$a_n = 7 - 3n$$

Geometric Sequence

Definition: A geometric sequence has a constant ratio between each term.

$$a, ar, ar^2, \dots, ar^n$$

Examples: What is the term of the sequence (a_n) ?

1. $\{1, -1, 1, -1, 1, \dots\}$

• $a=1, r=-1$ $a_n = 1(-1)^n$

2. $\{2, 10, 50, 250, 1250, \dots\}$

• $a=2, r=5$ $a_n = 2(5)^n$

3. $\{6, 2, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{2}{9}, \frac{2}{27}, \dots\}$

• $a=6, r=\frac{1}{3}$ $a_n = 6(1/3)^n$

Exercise

Exercise 1: Let $\{a_n\} = \{7, 13, 19, 25, \dots\}$ for $n \geq 0$, Find a_{100} ?

Solution: It's arithmetic sequence, $a=7$ and $d=6$

$$\begin{aligned} a_n &= a_0 + d(n) && \text{when the index starts with 0} \\ &= 7 + 6n \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{So, } a_{100} = 7 + 6(100) = 607$$

Exercise 2: Let $\{a_n\} = \{7, 13, 19, 25, \dots\}$ for $n \geq 1$, Find a_{100} ?

Solution: It's arithmetic sequence, $a=7$ and $d=6$

$$\begin{aligned} a_n &= a_1 + d(n-1) && \text{when the index starts with 1} \\ &= 7 + 6(n-1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{So, } a_{100} = 7 + 6(100-1) = 601$$

Recurrence Relations

Definition: A *recurrence relation* for the sequence $\{a_n\}$ is an equation that expresses a_n in terms of one or more of the previous terms of the sequence.

Example: *Fibonacci sequence*. Let $f_n = f_{n-1} + f_{n-2}$ and $f_0 = 0, f_1 = 1$. How the sequence looks like?

Solution:

$\{0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, \dots\}$

Guessing Sequences

Given a few elements of a sequence, try to identify the sequence or the formula .

Some questions to ask?

- Are there repeated terms of the same value?
- Can you obtain a term from the previous term by adding an amount or multiplying by an amount?
- Can you obtain a term by combining the previous terms in some way?
- Do the terms match those of a well known sequence?

Exercise

Example: Find the term of the sequence (a_n) for:

1. $\{a_n\} = \{1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/8, 1/16\}$.

- This is a geometric sequence with $a = 1$ and $r = 1/2$. Thus, $a_n = 1/2^n$

2. $\{a_n\} = \{1, 7, 25, 79, 241, 727, 2185, 6559, 19681, 59047\}$.

- **Solution:** Note the ratio of each term to the previous ≈ 3 . So now compare with the sequence of 3^n . We notice that the n^{th} term is 2 less than the corresponding power of 3. Thus, $a_n = 3^n - 2$.

n	1	2	3	4	5
3^n	3	9	27	81	243
a_n	1	7	25	79	241

Some Useful Sequences

TABLE: Some Useful Sequences.

<i>n^{th} Term</i>	<i>First 10 Terms</i>
n^2	1, 4, 9, 16, 25, 36, 49, 64, 81, 100,...
n^3	1, 8, 27, 64, 125, 216, 343, 512, 729, 1000,...
n^4	1, 16, 81, 256, 625, 1296, 2401, 4096, 6561, 10000,...
f_n	1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89,...
2^n	2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, 256, 512, 1024,...
3^n	3, 9, 27, 81, 243, 729, 2187, 6561, 19683, 59049,...
$n!$	1, 2, 6, 24, 120, 720, 5040, 40320, 362880, 3628800,...

Summations₁

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i = a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \dots + a_n$$

The variable ***i*** is called the *index of summation*. It runs through all the **integers** starting with its *lower limit* (1) and ending with its *upper limit* (n).

Example: What is the value of $\sum_{i=1}^5 i^2$?

Solution: $\sum_{i=1}^5 i^2 = 1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + 4^2 + 5^2 = 55$

Summations₂

Example: Evaluate the following summations:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n c = c + c + c + \dots + c = \mathbf{nc}$$

$$\sum_{i=m}^n c = \mathbf{(n - m + 1)c}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n i = 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n = \frac{\mathbf{n(n + 1)}}{\mathbf{2}}$$

Proof? Next slide

$$\sum_{i=m}^n i = \sum_{i=1}^n i - \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} i = \frac{\mathbf{n(n + 1)}}{\mathbf{2}} - \frac{\mathbf{(m - 1)m}}{\mathbf{2}}$$

Proof of $\frac{n(n+1)}{2}$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n i = 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

Proof:

$$\text{Let } S = 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n$$

$$S = n + (n-1) + (n-2) + \dots + 1$$

add

$$2S = n(n+1)$$

$$S = n(n+1) / 2$$

Summation of Arithmetic Sequence

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a + bi = \sum_{i=1}^n a + b \sum_{i=1}^n i$$

Example: Evaluate the following summations:

$$\sum_{j=1}^{10} 5j + 2 = 5 \sum_{j=1}^{10} j + \sum_{j=1}^{10} 2 = 5 \frac{10(11)}{2} + 2(10) = 275 + 20 = \mathbf{295}$$

$$\sum_{j=5}^{10} 5j = 5 \sum_{j=1}^{10} j - 5 \sum_{j=1}^4 j = 5 \frac{10(11)}{2} - 5 \frac{4(5)}{2} = 275 - 50 = \mathbf{225}$$

Summation of Geometric Sequence

$$\sum_{i=0}^n ar^i = a \sum_{i=0}^n r^i = a + ar + ar^2 + \dots + ar^n = a \left[\frac{r^{n+1} - 1}{r - 1} \right] \quad r \neq 1$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } S &= a + ar + ar^2 + \dots + ar^n \\ r \times S &= ar + ar^2 + \dots + ar^{n+1} \quad \text{subtract} \\ \hline rS - S &= ar^{n+1} - a \\ S &= \frac{ar^{n+1} - a}{r - 1} \end{aligned}$$

Example: $\sum_{j=0}^5 2(5)^j = 2 \left[\frac{5^6 - 1}{5 - 1} \right] = 2 \left[\frac{15624}{4} \right] = 7812$

Some Useful Summation Formulae

<i>Sum</i>	<i>Closed Form</i>
$\sum_{k=0}^n ar^k \ (r \neq 0)$	$\frac{ar^{n+1} - a}{r - 1}, \ r \neq 1$
$\sum_{k=1}^n k$	$\frac{n(n+1)}{2}$
$\sum_{k=1}^n k^2$	$\frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$
$\sum_{k=1}^n k^3$	$\frac{n^2(n+1)^2}{4}$

Double Summations

Example 1: $\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m c = \sum_{i=1}^n cm = cmn$

Example 2: $\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m i = \sum_{i=1}^n mi = m \sum_{i=1}^n i = m \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$

Example 3: $\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m j = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{m(m+1)}{2} = n \frac{m(m+1)}{2}$

Example 4: $\sum_{i=1}^4 \sum_{j=1}^3 ij = \sum_{i=1}^4 \frac{3(4)}{2} i = \sum_{i=1}^4 (6i) = 6 \frac{4(5)}{2} = 60$

Product Notation

$$\prod_{i=1}^n a_i = a_1 \times a_2 \times a_3 \times \cdots \times a_n$$

Examples:

$$\prod_{i=1}^n c = c \times c \times c \times \cdots \times c = c^n$$

$$\prod_{i=1}^n i = 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times \cdots \times n = n!$$